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## Facist-Tinged Birch Society Calls 'Democracy a 'Fraud'

IT HAS BEEN reliably reported to this newspaper that would-be organizers of a John Birch society here were emphatically but courteously turned down.

Perhaps since then there has been a cell of the society formed in Robertson county. We hope not.

For the strange philosophy of Mr. Robert Welch, founder of ultra-rightist group, is indeed one of great concern to those of us who value our freedoms and our democratic way of life.

Whereas the Communists lean far to the left in their ideologies and attempts to bring America to her knees, the Welchers shift just as far to the right with monolithic power that closely resembles Facism in its truest form.

Certainly no patriotic American would disagree that the Communist threat is of great concern to us all. In fact, on the face of the secret society, one might think the Welch group has a good point in fighting communism by using the Communists' own methods.

But this theory is quickly disproved when one analyzes these methods: character assassination reminiscent of the McCarthy era, imposition of the silence of fear and doubt, creating disorder and confusion and suspicion, and hiding behind a cloak of anti-communism.

Still the society grew, with Tennessee becoming a stronghold. It grew, that is, until the writings of Mr. Welch became known.

Such as:

"... My firm belief that Dwight Eisenhower is a dedicated conscious agent of the Communist conspiracy is based on an accumulation of detailed evidence so extensive and so palpable that it seems to me to put this conviction beyond any reasonable doubt... there is only one word to describe his purposes and actions. That word is treason."

And this was written about a man who has dedicated his life to freedom in war and in peace.

Similar harsh yet astounding statements have been made by Welch against all our Presidents since Mr. Franklin D. Roosevelt. In the same category he links Dr. Milton Eisenhower, and the two Dulles brothers, John Foster, deceased former secretary of state, and Allen, head of the Central Intelligence Agency.

But to top it off Mr. Welch says "Democracy is merely a deceptive phrase, a weapon of demagoguery and a perennial fraud."

Society members who disagree with Mr. Welch have one choice: get out. There is no room for disagreement in this dictatorial system.

"We are not going to have factions developing on the two-sides-to-every question theme," says Mr. Welch.

It was comforting to hear that former Vice President Richard Nixon has publicly joined in condemning the John Birch society.

There has been a clamour for a congressional investigation of the ultra-conservative group. But we might suggest that if the people of our country will simply inform themselves about the philosophies of the society, there will be no need for an investigation.

For, in such a case, there will be no John Birch society.